

been lower. We would not have had to jump through these hoops and the government would have collected some taxes.

I also believe that the death tax exemption should be increased. While I currently do not have children, I would like to think that I could some day pass on my business to my children. Many of my investors are also concerned with the death tax. This has led some of them to make their investments through trusts in their children's names. This leads to additional paperwork and more profit for our lawyers and accountants. We would all be better off if the exemption were raised and the rules were simplified.

Thank you very much for giving me the change to share my views with you. I know you are busy and I appreciate the time you have given me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 236, on final passage of H.R. 1119, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in becoming an original cosponsor of the China Human Rights and Democracy Act of 1997. I especially wish to applaud the actions of my colleagues, Representatives JOHN PORTER, DAVID DREIER, JIM KOLBE, and MATT SALMON, in writing and pushing this legislation. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, this bill is the right, targeted approach to take in opposing the policies of the People's Republic of China that all Americans find repugnant. As evidenced by the vote last Tuesday, the most-favored-nation [MFN] or normal trade status debate is the wrong place to express our disagreements with the Chinese Government.

This legislation would allow Radio Free Asia to broadcast 24 hours a day to give the Chinese people the truth about their government and current events. In addition, the bill would help various foundations to promote democracy, civil society, and the rule of law in China and would encourage more international exchanges between our two peoples. It would also promote a voluntary code of conduct for United States businesses. The vast majority of United States companies operating in China already provide exemplary models to China of how to conduct business and treat people equally and fairly. This code would help give these U.S. firms concrete goals to measure their success.

The bulk of the legislation focuses on promoting human rights in China. It requires an annual report on human rights conditions in China. The bill also proposes to create a prisoner information registry so that people in the United States could plead for specific political

prisoners in China. It would also deny visas to Chinese Government officials who have been involved in human rights abuses or in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The bill would also publish and disseminate a list of Chinese companies that are affiliated with the People's Liberation Army so the American people would know if a particular product they wish to buy is made by a Chinese firm affiliated with the Chinese military.

However, I have one minor but important reservation about the legislation, which I hope can be worked out before it reaches the House floor for a vote. The legislation requires a one-to-one ratio between State Department Foreign Service officers with an expertise in human rights and Commerce Department U.S. Foreign & Commercial Service [US&FCS] officers, who are experts at promoting U.S. exports.

The China Human Rights and Democracy Act mandates that the State Department appoint at least six human rights officers. The problem is that there are 13 US&FCS officers in China, with 9 in Beijing alone. The problem is further compounded by the fact that the Commerce Department currently only has seven of these nine positions in Beijing filled. Plus, one of these officials is really an export control officer who is charged primarily with ensuring that Chinese importers comply with United States export control laws. If the State Department is unable to fund more than the minimum number of six human rights officers, then the unintended consequence of this legislation will force the Commerce Department to withdraw as many as seven US&FCS officers from China to comply with this one-to-one ratio. Thus, the real-life practical effect of the legislation could translate into having only five full-time US&FCS officers for the entire country of China. Compare that with Tokyo, Japan, 12 US&FCS officers, or Seoul, South Korea, 7 US&FCS officers, and I hope you see the need, Mr. Speaker, for more than 5 US&FCS officers for all of China.

Our foreign competitors already have dozens more export promotion officials in China than us. This legislation could place United States exporters at a competitive disadvantage I believe the better way is to have the legislation stress the importance of stationing human rights officers in China but leave the number of these officers up to the discretion of the State Department and not require a one-to-one ratio to US&FCS officers.

Mr. Speaker, with this minor reservation, I am pleased to join on as an original cosponsor to the China Human Rights and Democracy Act of 1997, and I hope to work out this problem through the committee process.

THE TOWN OF MICHIGAMME, MI, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I bring to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and the American public the 125th birthday of a proud historic town in the First Congressional District of Michigan, the town of Michigamme. This town, with a population of just over 300 residents, may be considered

small by conventional standards, but it holds a big place in the history of the central Upper Peninsula of Michigan and in the hearts of the people who have known it.

Michigamme was founded in 1872 by Jacob Houghton, the brother of the famous Dr. Douglas Houghton, after he discovered iron ore deposits there. Mr. Houghton became the owner and operator of both the iron ore mine and the sawmill of Michigamme. Iron ore mining and timber industry jobs brought hundreds to Michigamme, but the economic panic of 1873 and a forest fire soon reduced the number of available jobs. Michigamme exhibited its resilience as a community by reopening the sawmill and resuming mining. The town bounced back and the population swelled to 1,800 by 1882, a record that has stood intact since that time. In 1881, F.W. Read bought the Michigamme sawmill, and the mines of the area were purchased by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co., and the Ford Motor Co. near the turn of the century. Through the early 20th century, Michigamme's rich veins of iron ore and statusque first-growth timber provided the town with solid industrial economic base.

Michigamme's industrial base was not the only reason that people settled there. Michigamme's location on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigamme have also contributed to its growth and history. The residents of Michigamme have added to the beauty of the town by encouraging a community for the arts and crafts, with several operating gift shops and an annual Christmas Market, widely attended by the surrounding communities. Michigamme has been called the Renaissance Village, because of the artistic community it fosters. The residents of Michigamme know that this is a special place that they can call home.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Michigamme exemplify the small-town character and spirit which we hear our colleagues speak about with nostalgia in today's fast-paced and impersonal culture. The people of Michigamme, MI, are proud of where they came from and of who they are. They are the type of people who honor their history and look forward to creating a future for their town. They are the type of people who know their neighbor and who call him or her a friend. I would like to extend my congratulations to the people of Michigamme on the 125th birthday of their town, and I am here today to ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them the best for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS WILKINS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to Thomas Wilkins who is one of this year's winners of the Best of Reston Awards. These awards are made annually by the Reston Chamber of Commerce and Reston Interfaith. The Best of Reston Community Service Award was created to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to community service, and/or who have improved the lives of people in need in Reston, VA.

Thomas Wilkins is honored with this distinction for being a "man of all seasons." He has

served as an active member of the NAACP, and as president of the Reston Association, elected by his peers on the board of directors, who are in turn, elected by Reston citizens. Tom is active in Meals-On-Wheels, and offers his services as a tutor in public schools. He has served on the Stonegate Village Advisory Board, helped children to attend college and

served as a founding board member for the Medical Care for Children Partnership. Tom also served as a devoted member of my staff when I was chairman of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and has continued to advise me and other political leaders of both parties in northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the Best of Reston Award winner Thomas Wilkins for his hard work in making Reston, VA, an outstanding place to live and work. His daily heroics deserve recognition and gratitude from a grateful community